



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers**

North Central Division

**Great Lakes Levels  
Update No. 40  
November 3, 1988**

Proving that there is nothing so constant as change, the Great Lakes basin was considerably wetter than average last month. Basin-wide, rainfall was over an inch (about 40%) above average, quickly wiping out rainfall deficits created by the drought conditions earlier this year. The Lake Erie basin was the wettest both in total amount of rainfall (about 4.3 inches by preliminary report) and in percentage departure from average (about 60% above). Lake

Superior's basin rainfall was the closest to average at about 15% high.

The 30-day National Weather Service outlook is for temperatures to be below average in November, basin-wide; rainfall is expected to total about average. The 90-day (November-January) outlook calls for below average temperatures basin-wide; precipitation is expected to be below average.

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Regarding lake levels, Lakes Superior, Michigan-Huron and Ontario were 6 inches, 4 inches and 3 inches below their respective long-term averages. The October level of Lakes Michigan-Huron was the lowest since March 1978; Lake Erie, the lowest since February 1977. The levels for both Lakes St. Clair and Erie were about one inch above long-term average. All of the lakes fell in October in consonance with regular declines, which are expected to continue for the next few months.

The International Joint Commission's public forum, held at ten locations on October 22, proved

very useful for the Levels Study. Much was learned and shared by all participants. Their contribution to the effort as a whole is much appreciated.

**Theodore Vander Els**  
Brigadier General, USA  
Commanding